

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8028

INFO /AMEMBASSY BONN 2544

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5141

EO 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: CDS LEADERS WARN OF FAR RIGHT ACTIVITY

REF: LISBON A-195 (DATED JULY 30, 1976)

SUMMARY: CDS SECRETARY-GENERAL BASILIO HORTA AND VICE PRESIDENT AMARO DA COSTA TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE STRENGTH AND ACTIVITY OF THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN FAR RIGHT ARE GROWING. THEY SAID CDS HAD CUT ITSELF OFF FROM THE FAR RIGHT, AND FEARED THAT THE COMMUNISTS MAY BE SUPPORTING THE FAR RIGHT IN ORDER TO COAX THEM INTO ANOTHER ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT. HORTA AND COSTA EXPRESSED THEIR CERTAINTY THAT THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT WOULD FAIL WITH ONLY QUESTION REMAINING OF WHETHER ITS REPLACEMENT WOULD BE CIVILIAN OR AUTHORITARIAN MILITARY REGIME OF THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT. DESPITE CDS PESSIMISM, THE PARTY IS WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT.

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END SUMMARY.

1. CSS SECRETARY-GENERAL BASILIO HORTA REQUESTED TO MEET WITH EMBOFF JULY 29. HORTA, JOINED LATER BY CDS VICE PRESIDENT AMARO DA COSTA, MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- PS GOVERNMENT IS DOOMED TO FAILURE AND ONLY REMAINING QUESTION IS WHAT SUCCEEDS IT: EITHER SUCCESSOR CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT COMPOSED OF COMPETENT ECONOMIC PLANNERS REGARDLESS OF PARTY AFFILIATION, OR AN AUTHORITARIAN MILITARY REGIME OF THE RIGHT OR LEFT.

-- KAULZA DE ARRIAGA AND ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY OFFICERS, INCLUDING SOARES CARNEIRO AND JAIME NEVES, ARE PLANNING FOR AN AUTHORITARIAN RIGHT SUCCESSOR TO THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT. "AMERICAN MULTINATIONALS" ARE SUPPORTING THE FAR RIGHT. THE BAVARIAN CSU IS INCREASINGLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE PORTUGUESE EXTREME RIGHT.

-- THE PPD HAS NOT DISASSOCIATED ITSELF FROM KAULZA AND IS MEETING WITH HIM AND OTHERS ON THE RIGHT.

-- CDS REJECTED ANY ASSOCIATION WITH THE EXTREME RIGHT BY ITS PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF KAULZA AND THE OPENING TO THE LEFT AT CDS JULY 23-25 CONGRESS (REFAIR AND SEPTTEL). A NUMBER OF CDS MEMBERS WERE LEAVING THE PARTY BECAUSE THE CDS HAD DISAVOWED THE FAR RIGHT.

-- THE COMMUNISTS AND OTHERS ON THE LEFT WERE BELIEVED TO BE ENCOURAGING KAULZA AND THE FAR RIGHT IN ORDER TO PROVOKE AN ABORTIVE COUP BY THE RIGHT, SIMILAR TO THAT OF MARCH 11.

2. EMBOFF REPLIED TO HORTA THAT:

-- WE BELIEVED A FAR RIGHT AUTHORITARIAN TAKEOVER WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR PORTUGAL; INTERNATIONAL
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SUPPORT FROM WEST WOULD DISAPPEAR; AND THE COMMUNISTS WOULD BE STRENGTHENED BY HAVING AN AUTHORITARIAN TARGET.

-- USG SUPPORTED THE ELECTED CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT AND HAD EVERY HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SUCCEED.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE THEIR PESSIMISM, THE CENTER DEMOCRATS ARE COOPERATING WITH THE SOCIALISTS IN THE ASSEMBLY. THE CDS DOES NOT WISH TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR A FALL OF GOVERNMENT, AND IS SUFFICIENTLY CONVINCED OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION NOT TO COMPLICATE THE GOVERNMENT'S TASK.

4. PART OF THE CENTER DEMOCRATS'S CONCERN WITH KAULZA AND THE FAR RIGHT IS ATTRACTION THIS GROUP REPRESENTS FOR SOME CDS SUPPORTERS. NONETHELESS, CDS PREOCCUPATION WITH SIGNS OF A REVIVAL IN FAR RIGHT STRENGTH IS GENUINE, AND OF CONCERN.
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